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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: DISARMAMENT WEEK

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", adopted resolution 47/54 C of 9 December 1992, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on the follow-up measures undertaken by States, Governments and non-governmental organization in holding Disarmament Week;
>
> "2. Commends all States, international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations for their active support for and participation in Disarmament Week;
>
> "3. Invites all States that so desire, in carrying out appropriate measures at the local level on the occasion of Disarmament Week, to take into account the elements of the model programme for Disarmament Week prepared by the Secretary-General;
>
> "4. Invites Governments and international and national non-governmental organizations to continue to take an active part in Disarmament Week and to inform the Secretary-General of the activities undertaken;
>
> "5. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to use the United Nations information organs as widely as possible to promote better understanding among the world public of disarmament problems and the objectives of Disarmament Week;
>
> "6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the item entitled 'Disarmament Week'."

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the report of the activities undertaken to promote the objectives of Disarmament Week during the three-year period 1992-1994.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BURKINA FASO

[Original: French]

[17 May 1995]

Burkina Faso will mark Disarmament Week, on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, with a conference on the theme of disarmament.

ESTONIA

[Original: English]

[22 May 1995]

Estonia is pleased to report that it does not have oversized armed forces that have to be demobilized nor does it possess any offensive weapons that could threaten any neighbouring State. All offensive weapons have been removed from Estonia.

There are still 203 specialists from the Russian Federation currently engaged in dismantling the nuclear reactors at the former Paldiski Naval Training Centre. This work is scheduled to be completed on 30 September 1995, and the specialists will be withdrawn. In addition, there are about 1,000 demobilized Russian servicemen and officers who were to have been withdrawn to the Russian Federation by 30 August 1994 and whose departure we are eagerly awaiting. With the withdrawal of all foreign servicemen and specialists and the dismantling of the Naval Training Centre, Estonia could be considered as having completed its effective disarmament programme. Therefore, there are no reasons to conduct a disarmament week programme.

JAPAN

[Original: English]

[25 April 1995]

The Government of Japan considers disarmament to be a pillar of its diplomacy as it seeks to foster international peace and security. It has therefore sought to enhance awareness by disseminating governmental messages regarding Disarmament Week throughout Japanese society. In addition, in many cities, particularly Hiroshima and Nagasaki, various public information activities are being undertaken in conjunction with Disarmament Week.

III. UNITED NATIONS

A. United Nations Headquarters

1. The annual commemoration of Disarmament Week is widely observed at United Nations Headquarters and throughout the world by the organizations of the United Nations system. At Headquarters, both the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information seek to involve as many segments of the public as possible in the observance of the Week. The United Nations information centres around the world remain an important network in the international effort to focus on the question of disarmament and play a significant role in facilitating and encouraging the activities undertaken at the local level by concerned constituencies.

2. In each of the three years under review, Disarmament Week was marked at United Nations Headquarters, as usual, by a special meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly and by a non-governmental organization (NGO) Forum/Symposium, co-sponsored by the Centre for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

3. In 1992, 1993 and 1994, the First Committee devoted its 18th, 15th and 11th meetings respectively to the observance of the Week. Statements were made by the Chairman of the Committee, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and, in his absence, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. At the 1992 commemoration, the Secretary-General introduced his report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era". 2/ The general view of those who spoke at these meetings was that, in spite of the fact that we were no longer in the throes of a cold war, the world we lived in today was still a very dangerous place. Even if, it was noted, the international security environment really had changed, and even if new prospects for disarmament were opening up, we were at one and the same time witnessing the appearance of highly complex challenges that the international community would have no choice but to address as quickly as possible.

4. The other traditional Disarmament Week feature, the NGO Forum/Symposium, focused in 1992 on the theme of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In 1993, a two-day symposium, discussed prospects for achieving a comprehensive test-ban treaty and a ban on the production of weapons-grade fissionable material and for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms and the discussion of transparency in armaments in the Conference on Disarmament; and progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and confidence-building measures in Central Africa. In 1994, over a three-day period, there were four panel discussions, during which presentations were made on moving towards real nuclear disarmament; a comprehensive test-ban and the 1995 Review Conference; the oversight capabilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Non-Proliferation Treaty; and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. A presentation was also made by the special Adviser to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the subject of military expenditures and social development. These events were attended by representatives of NGOs, the diplomatic community, the media and United Nations staff members.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

5. In 1992, the Geneva Branch of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, which also participates in the annual observance of Disarmament Week, mounted a display of international legal instruments relating to disarmament and United Nations publications on disarmament to commemorate the Week. In addition, the Branch participated in a meeting of the Special NGO Committee on Disarmament (Geneva), which devoted a large part of its discussions to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An agenda for peace". 3/

6. Over the last two years, the Branch continued to participate in the observance of the Week. Its staff undertook a number of speaking engagements in the framework of the Geneva Graduate Study Programme, the International Forum of Youth, various visiting groups and individuals. The Branch also attended and contributed to the activities of various local NGOs (CONGO, Special NGO Committee on Disarmament and others), focusing on the activities of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular, the negotiations on the comprehensive test-ban treaty, and other issues, such as the prohibition of production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, negative security assurances and transparency in armaments.

C. United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

7. As in the past, the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament organized and/or co-sponsored various events during the annual commemoration of Disarmament Week. At the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, for example, the Week was observed in 1994 in a joint venture with the United Nations Information Centre in Lomé, by making a tour through the important towns of Togo. In each town, two presentations were made to the public; one on the structure of the United Nations and the other on the United Nations efforts in the field of peace and disarmament. These presentations were followed by intensive discussions with participants, who had been designated by their respective local officials in accordance with the instructions given by the Minister of Education and Scientific Research of Togo.

D. United Nations information centres and services

8. The United Nations information centres and services continued to participate in the international commemoration of the Week by arranging a variety of events and activities at the local level. The Centres issued special backgrounders for radio, television and press services, organized exhibits and cooperated with local NGOs in the planning and organizing of their special observances. In 1992, a 15-minute radio documentary entitled "Disarmament and peace" was produced by the Department of Public Information in English and French. In 1994, the Department also produced a video documentary entitled "Enough is enough", which focused on disarmament in the post-cold-war era. The video, along with the issuance of press releases and the dissemination of information regarding the work of the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, were all part of the Department's information activities relating to disarmament. The directors and staff members

of the United Nations information centres and services also continued the practice of addressing special ceremonies and providing articles and interviews for the local media during the Week.

9. In addition to their close cooperation with the print and audiovisual media, the information centres, in order to promote the Week as widely as possible, also worked with foreign ministries of Member States, government agencies and offices, United Nations associations, educational institutions, research centres and NGOs.

Notes

1/ A/47/321.

2/ A/C.1/47/7.

3/ A/47/277-S/24111.